



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

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WALTER E. WHITCOMB
COMMISSIONER

Date: September 27, 2013

To: Northern Aroostook Region Plan Advisory Committee Members
From: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,
Division of Parks and Public Lands
Re: Five-Year Review of the Northern Aroostook Region Management Plan: Comments and Responses

Enclosed are the Advisory Committee comments on the 2012 five-year review of the 2007 Northern Aroostook Region Management Plan and the responses to these comments by the Division of Parks and Public Lands.

The Plan guides the management of public lands at Deboullie, Eagle Lake, Salmon Brook Lake Bog and several small lots. The Division is required to report to the Advisory Committee at five-year intervals on accomplishments and changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the plan.

The Division mailed its 2012 five-year report for the Northern Aroostook Region plan to the Advisory Committee members on July 2, 2013, requesting their comments on the report. The comments of individual Committee members and the Division's response to each are presented in the attached table.

For the Northern Aroostook Region Plan, the Division identified one circumstance that required Committee input before further action is taken, and asked for that input through member responses to the question: "Do Advisory Committee members support retaining the Deboullie warden's camp and repairing it for use as a picnic shelter without amending the management plan?"

Deboullie Warden's Camp

The Plan recommended removing the old Deboullie Mountain fire warden's camp and replacing it with a picnic shelter in the same location. After plan adoption, a group asked that the camp be retained for its local historic interest and improved for use as the picnic shelter. The Division found this alternative proposal substantially similar to the plan recommendation in that it eliminated a dilapidated structure through restoration and provided a picnic shelter in the same location by using the restored structure as the picnic shelter. Because the alternative proposal was substantially similar to the plan recommendation, the Division felt that a formal plan amendment was not required to implement it.

The Division received comments from six Advisory Committee members and takes particular note of the following:

- Deboullie Warden's Camp: Two commenters supported retaining the Deboullie warden's camp and repairing it for use as a picnic shelter, and one of these felt that a plan amendment was unnecessary to accept this approach. There were no other comments on the warden's camp.
- Eagle Lake Sporting Camps: The owner asked that the language of the Five Year Review be modified to reflect a prior agreement with the Division about the camp access road and road investments made by the

owner. The Division noted that terms of a renewal lease now under negotiation will supersede earlier terms and actions, and that the current language remains accurate and sufficient at this time.

The owner also requested the addition of “new issues or circumstances” to reflect the need to continue to work with the owner to address the changing needs of sporting camp clients by allowing a range of improvements. The Division noted that improvements to this leased property are governed by the camp lease rather than the unit management plan, and that the owner’s requests can be addressed during negotiations for lease renewal.

- Toilet facilities at Salmon Brook Lake Bog: Two commenters noted the need for a toilet facility near the picnic shelter at Salmon Brook Lake Bog. The Division is now developing this facility.

Advisory Committee comments indicate no opposition to retaining the Deboullie warden’s camp and repairing it for use as a picnic shelter without amending the management plan. Therefore, the Division will take the following specific action without a plan amendment: retain the warden’s camp for its local historic interest and improve the structure for use as a picnic shelter. Repairs will be consistent with original design and materials, and the work would be carried out by volunteers with materials and supervision provided by the Division.

The Advisory Committee identified no other new issues or circumstances that require an amendment to the plan, or that should be discussed with the Committee prior to the Division taking action without amending the plan. Therefore, this five-year review process is completed